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report on the GST District Headquarters in Schwerin and Guestrow. The report covers the following subjects: 1. Basic Structure of the GST, 2. Training, 3. Practical Training, 4. Prerequisites for Obtaining Firing Badges, 5. Prerequisites for Obtaining the Multiple Combat Badge, 6. Training Plan, 7. A Sample Statistical Report, 8. Monthly Dues for GST Members, 9. Decrees, Orders, and Instructions, 10. Cooperation between the GST and SED, 11. Course of Debates at the Guestrow Kreis Headquarters 12. Measures Taken at the GST Kreis Headquarters in Guestrow as a Result of the Hungarian Uprising, 13. Recruiting for the National People's Army, 14. Results of Practical GST Work in Guestrow, 15. House of Education, and 16. Personnel Information.

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~~SECRET~~ GST Bezirk Headquarters Schwerin,
am Funkhaus Schwerin.

1. Basic Structure of the GST

The Society for Sport and Technology (GST) consists of:

a. Basic organizations (Grundorganisationen), which may be groups of up to 15 persons with up to three leading members; sections, consisting of three groups (a section has up to five leading members) ^{and} companies of hundreds (Hundertschaften), consisting of three to four sections with up to seven leading members. A basic organization may also have three to four companies of hundreds; then it will have nine to eleven leading members.

b. Kreis headquarters, consisting of main-office (~~Abt~~ ^{Hauptamtlich}) and honorary officials. The highest organ of the Kreis is the Secretariat to which main-office and honorary officials are "elected." According to the statutes of the GST, main-office officials of the Kreis headquarters may function as such only if they are expressly elected to their jobs. However, in practice this ^{seemingly} concession to the voters does not apply, since the system works in such a way that the election of predetermined candidates is assured in advance.

The Kreis secretariat consists of about 10 main-office and honorary officials, while the entire Kreis headquarters has about 30.

The main official part of the Kreis headquarters is made up as follows:

Chairman

Official for economics and finance

2 - 5 instructors

1 stenographer-typist

1 advisor of the NVA [Nationale Volksarmee, National People's Army]

c. Bezirk headquarters, ~~which~~ like the Kreis headquarters, consist of main-office and honorary officials. The highest organ of the Bezirk headquarters is ^{the} ~~if~~ the Bezirk secretariat, whose members are likewise "elected."

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The main part of the Bezirk headquarters is usually made up as follows,
with slight deviations:

Chairman

Deputy chairman

Deputy A + P [not identified] - possibly Agitation and Propaganda?

Chief of training section

Cadre official

Officials for economics and finance

Stenographer-typist and teletypist

Instructors for rifle practice, motor sport, sailing, communications,
and gliding

2 motorcyclists

Instructors for training ~~of~~ service dogs

d. Central headquarters, likewise with its own secretariat. The
ultimate and highest organ of the GST is the Congress which is convoked
periodically.

2. Training (Group formations)

The training branches of the GST comprise the following sports:

~~Firing~~^{Ring} and field exercises, formerly called combat sports (Kampfsport);

Truck and motorcycle instruction;

Naval instruction, including navigation, machine technology, marine
radio, diving, and model making;

Communications, including amateur radio, radio, teletype and telephone;

Gliding;

Aircraft model making;

Horsemanship, including jumping and team driving;

Training of service dogs, and

Parachute training.

All of the sports include practice firing which, according to age, is
performed with air rifles or KK 110 (Kleinkaliber_A small bore) rifles. In
addition, topography is also supposed to be taught.

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3. Practical Training

a. Practice Firing and Field Exercises

In connection with practice firing and field exercises, trainees are taught firing techniques and marksmanship. In topography, they are taught to use the compass and maps, and ~~they~~ are familiarized with terrain. They are taught to march on a given azimuth, map orientation, to find their position by day or night with or without maps, and to ^{circumvent} ~~bypass~~ impassable terrain sectors. In sports training, they are taught to surmount natural and man-made obstacles, and to negotiate an obstacle course with and without weapons. Target practice and distance-throwing with clubs (Keulen) are also included (Battle practice).

✓ The sanitation course teaches first aid and conduct during marches.

In terrain instruction, primary emphasis is placed on marching by groups and sections, including tactical problems. Additional training is given in individual combat, and in group combat involving squads, platoons, etc., in attack and defense positions, with or without exposure to atomic weapons. This also includes frontal engagements and surprise attacks. In addition, training is concentrated on close order drill, both while marching and while standing, changing of formations, saluting individually and in closed formation, approaching a superior, and close-combat ~~practice with~~ weapons ^{training}.

b. Motorized Sports

✓ Motorized sports includes ² instruction in the construction and function of motorcycles and trucks, and thorough knowledge of their individual parts. Thorough instruction is given concerning the most important aspects of traffic control, licensing, and liability laws. Operation and maintenance of a motor vehicle is taught by demonstration. Theoretical instruction is followed by actual driving lessons. The GST driving test is taken, and a yellow driver's license issued, which is not valid for private vehicles.

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The license is yellow because GST vehicles have yellow license plates. After the driving test, qualifying trips, convoy driving, orientation trips, cross-country driving, and endurance driving tests are performed. Practice-firing and topography are included in the motorized sports course.

c. Naval Sports

In naval sports, both theoretical and practical instruction is given in the construction, function, and operation of individual instruments, as well as their handling. Practice-firing and topography are also mandatory in this case.

d. Communications

This corresponds precisely to the training given in naval sports, except that instruction concentrates on communications equipment.

e. Gliding

This involves the same training as outlined under naval sports, *with different emphasis.*

f. Aircraft Model Making

This involves the construction of individual glider plane models with and without miniature engines, and performance flight tests of the plane models.

g. Horsemanship

Handling, care and protection of horses are taught. Practical training is given in bridling and saddling of horses. Practical training includes riding generally, riding in "Bakur," jumping and training of horses. Much emphasis is placed on team-driving and on keeping the horses together in march formation. Instruction is also given in guiding the reins, as well a thorough knowledge of the reaction of horses while in march formation. This training also includes practice firing and topography.

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Service Dogs

The Schaeferhund Association was dissolved as a bourgeoisie association in 1956. Since that time, service dogs may only be trained by GST units. At the same time, all service dog breeding stations were also taken over by the GST. This made membership in the GST practically compulsory for those who did not wish to give up the training of service dogs.

The dogs are trained exclusively according to the Pavlovian theory; any other type of training is no longer permitted.

The dogs are taught to follow spoors, protect persons, pursue fugitives, etc. They are also taught not ^{to cringe or} to be gun-shy, ~~and cringe.~~

Parachute Training

Initial training is given in the construction and operation of a parachute. This is followed by instruction in folding; jumping exercises from training horses and platforms are followed by jumps from a 40-meter high jump tower. After a designated number of these jumps has been completed, the trainee jumps from an aircraft.

Performance Badges

Performance badges are issued in bronze, silver, and gold for all types of sports.

Persons are encouraged to win performance badges for firing and multiple combat in all types of sports, if possible.

4. Pre-requisites for Obtaining the Badge for Firing:

Bronze, 6 rounds fired from an offhand, prone position, with a KK 110 rifle from a distance of 50 meters at international type ^{No} 10 targets ~~with~~ with 36 rings; Silver, the same as for the bronze badge, only 45 ^{rings} with 6 rounds; Gold, 5 rounds from an offhand, prone position; 5 rounds from an offhand, kneeling position; and 5 rounds from an offhand, standing position — 120 rings. Target and distance are the same as above, but firing may be performed with a open-sight KK precision rifle.

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In addition, however, the trainee must be versed in social-political questions and questions pertaining to firing techniques and theory, as well as questions on sports and organization, in accordance with the conditions prescribed for the bronze, silver, or gold badge awards.

5. Pre-requisites for Obtaining the Multiple Combat Badge

Pre-requisites for obtaining this badge are divided according to ~~certain~~ age groups and time spans

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However, all age groups must pass the following approximate tests:

- a. A 15-20-kilometer march, with full pack;
- b. An orientation march;
- c. A run of from 200 - 1,000 meters, depending on age; followed immediately by a 200-meter obstacle course; followed immediately by firing three rounds from an air rifle and hitting three bull's eyes; followed immediately by throwing three clubs for a distance of 21 - 26 meters within a target area measuring 3 meters in diameter; followed immediately by throwing a club for maximum distance. All of the above tasks must be completed within a set time limit. This is followed by firing three rounds from a small caliber rifle into a No 10 target, at a distance of 50 meters, with three bull's eyes mandatory.

The above prerequisites are followed by an ^{elective} ~~optional~~ task which corresponds to the entrant's education or branch of sports activity. For example, radio operators must ~~also~~ send radio messages at a certain speed; motorists must perform an orientation test over a selected route within an established time limit; etc.

6. Training Plan

Training is supposed to have a pre-military character and mostly encompasses the age groups from 14 - 25 years of age. However, this does not preclude the participation of older persons, particularly the field of training dogs, in which latter sport one can even find several sexagenarians.

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The GST is supposed to develop into an organization which, in conjunction with the FDJ [Freie Deutsche Jugend, Free German Youth Organization], encompasses millions of persons; consequently, it strives to include all young persons under 25 years of age. These persons are supposed to be politically and ideologically trained and, through the pre-military training which is given them, be prepared for the 2-year tour of military service in the National People's Army.

Training in the GST is scheduled to be conducted once each week for a period of 2 hours, depending on the situation of the basic organization. The trainer, or educator, is expected to compile a training plan which lists the subject, the location, and the time, as well as the date of the scheduled training. He is also obligated to maintain a group journal.

Training within a group is supposed to be carried out in such a manner that the group can qualify for a performance badge after a specified period of time and thus show proof of good and successful training.

Officers and NCOs of the National People's Army are supposed to be used to support and direct training and also to train the GST trainers.

Training is supposed to be lively and interesting, so that young people will join the GST with enthusiasm.

The elected leaders must have the highest sense of responsibility and are expected to maintain contact with the Kreis headquarters personally, since the instructors cannot be everywhere at once. In other words, the basic organizations are supposed to be as independent as possible. The individual basic organizations are expected to collect 100 percent of their membership contributions. Individual contributions must be accounted for by the 20th of each month with the instructor of any given area or the Kreis headquarters, personally. Simultaneously, the same deadline is to be observed in submitting a monthly statistical report of the basic organizations.

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7. Sample Statistical Report

The form for submitting monthly statistical reports of basic organizations bears the following format:

GO:

KREIS:

BEZIRK:

S T A T I S T I C S

Month.....19

Status of Membership in Previous Month

Losses: Transfers to other GOs

Resignations

Expulsions

Deaths

Additions: Transfers from other GOs

New entrants

New Membership Status

Number of Members Still not in Possession of Membership Cards

Signature

8. Monthly Dues for GST Members

Monthly membership dues are set as follows (in DM):

School children, apprentices, students, and housewives 0.25

Persons with incomes of up to 350 DM per month 0.50

Persons with incomes of up to 600 DM per month 1.00

Persons with incomes of up to 800 DM per month 2.00

Persons with incomes of up to 1,000 DM per month 3.00

Persons with incomes of over 1,000 DM per month 5.00

In addition, all members pay 1.00 DM semi-annually for insurance.

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9. Decrees, Orders, and Instructions

According to the Gesetzblatt der Deutschen Demokratischen Republik, No 41/56, the GST has been subordinate to the Ministry of National Defense since April 1956.

The GST is the chief recruiting organ for the National People's Army. Every GST official is expected to speak with the youth of a given area and try to persuade them to serve in the Army. One day per week is to be planned for this purposes for every GST official.

The officials must discuss the Youth Consecration Ceremony (Jugendweihe) and attempt to instill enthusiasm for it in their young listeners.

All basic organizations are to conduct increased terrain games, which are to be expanded to ^(Gebiet) area size (400 participants).

Increased political-ideological indoctrination is to be instituted. Events in Hungary were listed as reasons for this move.

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Intra⁺mural marksmanship competitions are to be held in the spring of 1957. In addition, Kreis classes, and leagues; Bezirk classes and leagues, etc., are to be established in marksmanship and firing. The teams required for this step are already practicing.

In December 1956 and January 1957, all GST membership books were exchanged. The new books have a green cover with the embossed GST emblem. All former membership books were declared void. The purpose of this exchange was an attempt to determine who actually was a member of the GST, to spur inactive members into active participation, and to collect outstanding dues.

Leaders of individual basic organizations are expected to undergo immediate specialized political training, which will be continuous after initial coverage, to provide them with the necessary ammunition for "nipping any arguments in the bud." Primarily, these leaders are to become so firmly entrenched in their ideological beliefs that they can be convincing vis-a-vis the members of their organizations.

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10. Cooperation Between the GST and the SED (Socialist Unity Party)

The BPOs [Bezirk Parteiorganisation, Bezirk Party Organization] are co-responsible for the development of GST work and its execution in the VEBs, VEGs, LPGs, and MTS. They are to check on the progress of the work and give support and guidance to the leaders [of the GST].

Security officers of the SED maintain liaison between the GST Kreis Headquarters and the SED Kreis Headquarters. If any difficulties which may arise, the security officers are consulted.

The chairman of the GST Kreis Headquarters must render a running account of GST work within the Kreis to the SED Kreis Headquarters.

11. Course of Debates at the GUESTRO^W Kreis Headquarters of the GST

Work debates, which are chaired by the chairman of the Kreis Headquarters, take place each Monday at 0900 hours at the GUESTRO^W Kreis GST headquarters, the discussions deal with demonstrated shortcomings of the past week and, occasionally, with the setting of new target dates.

At the beginning of the debates, important events covered by the press during the preceding week are discussed and new points are raised. New business mostly deals with the collection of membership dues; the soliciting of subscriptions to the publication GST in Wort und Bild (GST in Words and Pictures); recruiting for the National People's Army; maintenance of vehicles; execution of air-rifle firing exercises at public ranges; training; statistics; short-term courses of instruction at selected schools, lasting about 3 weeks and intended for group leaders; intramural contests; and, finally, execution of political-ideological indoctrination.

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12. Measures Taken at the GST Kreis Headquarters in GUESTROW as a Result of the Hungarian Uprising

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Following the Hungarian uprising, all weapons were withdrawn from basic organizations and shipped to the Kreis headquarters. This was done under the pretext of an "annual inventory." The weapons were stored under lock and key with the Transportation Police (Trapo) and the Bezirk Police Secretariat in GUESTROW. In the meantime, strict regulations regarding weapons arsenals have been issued, with the effect that even ^{now} ~~to day~~ not all weapons have ^{not} been returned to the basic organizations.

Furthermore, a round-the-clock telephone watch was established at the GUESTROW Kreis GST headquarters and an alarm plan was worked out which, in case of need, could be activated immediately.

These measures taken in GUESTROW are not limited to that Kreis alone, but are doubtlessly results of a directive from the Central Headquarters of the GST for all of East Germany.

13. Recruiting for the National People's Army

As mentioned previously, the GST is the chief recruiting organ for the Army. Each main GST official is expected to plan one day per week on which he will engage in active recruitment for the Army in a prescribed area. Recruiting is done as follows:

The GST official visits a community, an MTS, LPG, VEG administration, etc., and requests to be shown lists of all males between the ages of 18 and 22. Then he visits each individual separately. When he has received an acceptance from one of the young people, that person is ordered to appear at the Kreis headquarters of the Army as early as the very next day. Frequently, the recruit is driven to ~~the~~ ^{ce} Army headquarters on the recruiter's motorcycle. ^{immediately} ~~at once~~ ^{ce} at Kreis headquarters, the recruit is ordered to take a physical examination ~~at once~~. In case the recruit passes his physical examination, he has to report for duty with the Army in about 2 - 3 days. The fact that by use of these methods the hard-pressed youths find themselves in the Army sooner than they would like, is self-evident.

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[redacted]

From February through April, recruiting for the Army has been underway at full speed, to compensate for past and future discharges. Kreis GST headquarters were expected to meet ~~certain~~ quotas for recruiting.

14. Experiences Resulting From Practical GST Work in GUESTROW

[It has been shown that] most persons do not join the GST for idealistic reasons. They are attracted by sports activities, in particular the chances of learning to ride horses and motorcycles. GST participants have absolutely no interest in any kind of "ideological indoctrination," because during such sessions they only hear re-hashed topics which are presented to them anyway at other suitable and unsuitable times.

In other words, what they want is sports activity; they are not interested in hearing to whom they are ⁱndebted for ~~this~~^e opportunity to engage in sports activities, or that everything in East Germany is "their property," the protection of which is their duty.

Despite constant agitation and the desire for sports activities, membership continues to decline. In the area of jurisdiction of the Kreis GUESTROW headquarters, the number of GST members in 1955/1956 was around 2,000; in 1956/1957, the number declined to 1,600. The situation is much the same everywhere else. One of the reasons for the decline in membership, for example, is the fact that motorcycles, which have been used for driver training since 1952, are badly worn and in constant need of repair. Since no funds are available for replacing these machines, the practical aspects of training, which were, after all, the primary reason for so many young persons joining the GST, do not present any advantages; this is one factor which dampens the enthusiasm for sports.

The primary reason, however, is the fact that the people in East Germany are tired of incessant political-ideological explanations and of hearing about the "Defense Preparedness of the Homeland." In this connection [redacted] The young people want to be treated as such;

they do not want to be educated to become stereotype politicians, nor do they wish to be hammered into such ^{situations} ~~positions~~ with mallets. [redacted]

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The instructors, who represent the most important factor in GST education, have too large an area to cover and are, consequently, in no position to be of assistance to members or to guide them. The membership in general says of the instructors that they only put in an appearance to collect membership dues. The psychological repercussion of this phenomenon is the non-payment of dues and non-participation in training. The instructor is then faced with the thankless task of having to start from scratch, once more trying to convince the membership for the ^{n-th} ~~ninth~~ time ~~by speaking to them~~. The end result is that the instructors also tire and it becomes increasingly more difficult to find persons to occupy their positions.

15. House of Education (Haus der Ausbildung) [HdA]

The GST has its own HdAs. Short-term courses for group and section leaders are given in these establishments. The following three HdAs are located in the area of GUESTROW: The HdA GUESTROW, for marksmanship and terrain sports, riding, and hunting; the HdA PARCHIM, for motoring and communications; and the HdA SCHWERIN, for naval activities.

The organization of GST groups and sections is such that each only engages in one or another type of sports activity. As a result, the group and section leaders are also given corresponding specialized training.

16. Personnel Information

a. Kreis Headquarters GUESTROW, Sonnenplatz, telephone No 2854

Chairman

BREITSPRECHER, Heinz

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Deputy Chairman

GRUETZMANN, Gerhard

Economics and Finance

MENGE, Herbert

Stenographer-typist

THAMS, Rosemarie

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Instructor

BIELESCH, Stepha

NVA Consultant

DITTMANN, Werner; Lieutenant of the NVA;

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b. Kreis NVA Headquarters in GUESTROW, on the Market Place

Chief

BEHM, Hannes, 1st Lt

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c. HdA of the GST in GUESTROW, Sonnenplatz; telephone 3604

Chief

KALINOWSKI, Hans

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Marksmanship and terrain

instructor

DAMMEROW, Alfred

Horsemanship instructor

LADRIG, Bernd

~~GROOMING~~~~Care of Horses~~ instructor

ADEBAHR, Willi

d. SED Kreis Headquarters in GUESTROW on the Market Place

First Secretary

KNUTH, Erich

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Kreis security officer

KULLING, (fnu)

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